

December 2004

## Upgrading State Route 78

### ■ OVERALL GOALS

- Increase traffic capacity and reduce traffic congestion
- Improve motorist safety
- Maximize the freeway performance

### ■ THE PROJECTS

Sixteen separate contracts totaling \$130 million are being developed to upgrade the 18-mile section of State Route 78 (SR-78) between Interstate 5 in Oceanside and Center City Parkway in Escondido. These projects include new interchange construction, interchange improvements, widening or replacing existing bridges and construction of auxiliary lanes. Also, ramp meters will be installed on all on-ramps entering the freeway to improve the traffic flow during the daily commute.

### ■ TRAFFIC

The majority of the funds for transportation improvements in the corridor are coming from the TransNet corridor reserve fund, the 1/2-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1987. This provided \$80 million to be spent on the highways and local streets along the SR-78 corridor. Generally, TransNet is matching dollar for dollar monies provided from other sources such as developer impact fees, city bond funds, etc. These improvement projects may or may not be fully funded as of this

### ■ ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The SR-78 corridor abuts the Buena Vista Lagoon Preserve, Buena Vista Creek and other sensitive habitats. All are home to a variety of plant and animal species. During the environmental evaluation the least environmentally damaging and most cost effective alternative to solve the transportation need is identified. The appropriate environmental document is prepared for each project.

### ■ PROJECT STATUS/FUNDING

Various project have been completed. The remaining projects are expected to be completed by 2006. The \$130 million worth of funding for all projects has come from TransNet, SHOPP and STIP funds.

# State Route 78 Construction Schedule

